GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1210
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
GRADUATES TO RUN AGRI-CLINICS
RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to permit agriculture graduates to run Agri-clinics by providing them two months training for undertaking agricultural activities for promotion of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): Scheme for setting up of a Network of Agri clinics and Agri Business Centres wasenvisaged as a self employment scheme for graduates in agriculture and allied subjects with a view to supplement and strengthen the existing government machinery in agricultural extension by harnessing the vast potential of trained agricultural graduates, who are unemployed, in providing technical and specialized services to farmers on payment basis for enhancing agricultural productivity.

The scheme intends to assist agriculture graduates and graduates in subjects allied to agriculture in setting up of around 5000 Agri clinics/Agri Business ventures peryear. Those who propose to avail the benefit of the scheme will be given bank finance at priority sector lending rates through banks which would, in turn be refinanced by NABARD. They will also be given free training for 2-3 months to enable them to set up their own economically viable ventures. The training cost is borne by Government of India.

(c): The scheme is already under implementation and will continue during the entire 10th five-year plan period. In response to advertisements inviting applications from eligible agriculture graduates for training, 12,083 applications from all over the country have been received so far. Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) has been signedwith 36 training organizations. In the first batch, training is being provided to 618 applicants.